NCCF had authorised the local Bank on 20-5-85 to release payment to M/s. Dharamraj Neyuse and Co. Dubai against retirement of documents pertaining to transportation of Dry Dates (1500 MTs) for Iraq to Bombay even after expiry of letter of Credit;

(b) whether the CAF had favoured the above party in violation of rules of NCCF Government; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken against the CAF?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) The NCCF have reported that the Controller of Accounts & Finance had not issued any authorisation. However, the irregularities committed in the import of dry dates have been referred to CBI who have started regular investigation and action will be taken against those found guilty as per law.

Schemes for more employment opportunity

2779. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked all the Ministries to work out schemes and programmes to generate more employment opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the objectives of these instructions; and

(d) what progress has been made by the Ministries concerned in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The various Ministries are already implementing a number of beneficiary/employment oriented schemes/programmes like the Self-employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Scheme for Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP), etc.

Telecast of TV Serial 'Mahabharat'

2780. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised telecast timing of T.V. Serial 'Mahabharat';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the objectives for this revision of timings;

(d) whether Government have also revised timings for telecast of TV serial 'Ramayana'; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith objectives therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (e) Telecast of the serial 'Mahabharat' started on Sundays at 11.30 a.m. with effect from 2nd October, 1988. Subsequently, the extended part of the serial 'Ramayana' also became available for scheduling. Even though the first part of this serial had been telecast on Sundays morning at 9.30 a.m., it was not considered desirable from viewership angle to telecast the two epics on Sundays morning. Hence, it has been decided to telecast 'Ramayana' at 9.00 p.m. on Fridays beginning from 9th December 1988. The telecast timing of Mahabharat has also been

changed from 11.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. keeping in view the demand made by certain sections of the public for such a change.

Use of transplant techniques by IARI dairy farm

2781. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports appearing in a section of the press regarding birth of calf by transplant techniques at I.A.R.I. dairy farm;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the significance of this technique;

(d) whether Government propose to ask IARI to adopt these techniques on other domestic animals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In a collaborative research between I.A.R.I. and National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, a calf through **embryo transfer technology** was born on 13th January 1987. Subsequently twelve more calves were born. Recently through a split embryo technique a calf was born on 16th November 1988.

(c) The propagation of these techniques will help in intensifying production of superior germ plasm in dairy animals.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The work on embryo technology in cattle and other species has been taken up by other animal science research Institutes and State Agricultural Universities as a part of Technology Mission on Dairy Cattle Improvement through embryo transfer and under Indo-US Cooperative research project and AP Cess funded projects.

Proposals for Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme

2782. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals for Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme are under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof and characteristics of these proposals;

(c) by when these proposals are likely to be implemented; and

(d) what results are expected to be achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to revise some of the provisions of the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS). The changes include implementation of the CCIS on compulsory basis, charging actuarial rates of premia, reducing the scale of finance, improvement in the crop credit system and limiting the maximum sum insured per farmer etc.

(c) These changes in the CCIS are proposed to be implemented during the current financial year

(d) As a result of these changes the CCIS will be better administered.

Improvement in the functioning of Doordarshan

2783. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION